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TAGS: PARM, CCD, US, USSR

SUBJECT: CCD - 719TH PLENARY MEETING, AUGUST 10, 1976

1. SUMMARY: IN AUGUST 10 CCD PLENARY US AND USSR REPS
DISCUSSED RECENTLY-CONCLUDED TREATY ON PEACEFUL NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIONS. US REP GAVE DETAILED EXPLANATION OF TREATY
AND PROTOCOL PROVISIONS AND IMPLICATIONS OF PNE AND
TTBT TREATIES FOR FURTHER TESTING RESTRAINTS. SOVIET REP CITED
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EXAMPLES OF POTENTIAL PNE APPLICATIONS AND SAID THAT THE

REASON THE PNE TREATY'S CONTROL PROVISIONS INCLUDE ON-SITE PRESENCE OF OBSERVERS IS THAT, UNLIKE WEAPONS TESTS, PNEs ARE CARRIED OUT IN A VARIETY OF LOCATIONS. BRIEFLY ADDRESSING NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, SOVIET REP CALLED PROGRESS ON DEFINITIONAL ASPECTS A NECESSITY AND REAFFIRMED SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO CONCRETE NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. US REP (MARTIN) GAVE STATEMENT DISCUSSING PROVISIONS AND IMPLICATIONS OF US-USSR TREATY ON UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. HE SAID THAT THRESHOLD FOR INDIVIDUAL PNEs IS 150 KILOTONS, IDENTICAL TO THAT FOR WEAPONS TESTS UNDER THRESHOLD TEST BAN TREATY (TTBT), "LARGELY BECAUSE IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE TECHNOLOGY AS APPLIED FOR WEAPONS-RELATED PURPOSES AND AS APPLIED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES." MARTIN SAID PRESENCE OF OBSERVERS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES TO ENSURE THAT INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSIONS DID NOT EXCEED 150 KT CONSTITUTES IMPORTANT MILESTONE. HE DESCRIBED OBSERVERS' FUNCTIONS AND EXPLAINED THAT THEIR SCOPE INCREASES IN PROPORTION TO THE TOTAL YIELD, UP TO MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE AGGREGATE YIELD OF 1,500 KILOTONS.

3. MARTIN OBSERVED THAT PNE TREATY CONTAINS OPERATIVE ARTICLE REAFFIRMING PARTY'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER 1963 LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY (LTBT) NOT TO CARRY OUT UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS CAUSING RADIOACTIVE DEBRIS TO BE PRESENT OUTSIDE NATIONAL BOUNDARIES. HE CITED TTBT-PNET LINK OF IDENTICAL FIVE-YEAR DURATIONS. HE NOTED THAT PNE TREATY DOES NOT SOLVE PROBLEM OF PROVIDING FOR PNEs UNDER A LOWER THRESHOLD, NOR THE PROBLEM OF ACCOMMODATING PNEs UNDER A CTB. NEVERTHELESS, MARTIN SAID, IN CONTEXT OF CCD'S GOAL OF CTB AS COMPLETION OF FURTHER RESTRAINTS IN NUCLEAR TESTING, PNE TREATY'S PROVISIONS FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND FOR ON-SITE OBSERVATION ARE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF CONTROLS ON NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS.

4. ALSO DISCUSSING PNE TREATY, USSR REP (LIKHATCHEV) FIRST CITED LENGTHY LIST OF "POSSIBLE" USES, WITH CLOSEST EXAMPLES TO CANAL EXCAVATION BEING (IN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"CONSTRUCTION OF CHANNELS" AND "MAKING OF CUTTINGS AND EMBANKMENTS IN RAILWAY AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION." HE SAID PNEs OFFER "NEW AND VERY PROMISING AVENUE" FOR UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. HE CITED "SEVERAL PILOT UNDERGROUND CAPACITIES" THAT HAVE BEEN CREATED IN SALT-BEDS FOR STORING OIL, GAS OR GASCONDENSATE, ONE OF WHICH, FOR GAS CONDENSATE, WAS 50,000 CUBIC METERS, COSTING ONE-THIRD AS MUCH AS CONVENTIONAL STORAGE AND USING ONE-TENTH THE

METAL. HE ALSO CITED, AS EXAMPLE OF USE, CREATING BARRIER TO MOUNTAIN AVALANCHE. IN COMPARING PNE VERIFICATION WITH THAT FOR TTBT, LIKHATCHEV SAID THAT DIFFERENCE IS THAT WEAPONS TESTS ARE CARRIED OUT AT DESIGNATED SITES FOR WHICH INFORMATION IS EXCHANGED, BUT THAT SINCE PNES WILL OCCUR IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS KEYED TO NATURE OF PROJECT, ACCESS IS ALLOWED BOTH IN YIELD RANGE 100-150 KT AND FOR AGGREGATE YIELDS OVER 150 KT. HE DID NOT REFER TO LTBT OR TO ARTICLE III, PARA 3 RE QUESTION OF INDIVIDUAL EXPLOSIONS OVER 150 KILOTONS.

6. LIKHATCHEV SAID THAT PNE CONTROL SYSTEM IN NO WAY IMPLIES CHANGES IN SOVIET POSITION REGARDING CTB VERIFICATION, AND THAT THE USSR REMAINS CONVINCED THAT NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS SUPPLEMENTED BY INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF SEISMIC DATA WILL BE SUFFICIENT.

7. TURNING TO THE SOVIET INITIATIVE ON NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THE CURRENT INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS, THE USSR REP REFERRED TO THE SOVIET WORKING PAPER AND SAID THAT AGREEMENT ON DEFINITIONAL ASPECTS "WOULD PROVIDE THE NECESSARY BASIS FOR ELABORATING OTHER PARTS OF THE TREATY." HE REAFFIRMED THAT THE SOVIET DEL IS PREPARED TO ENTER INTO CONCRETE NEGOTIATIONS ON MDW.

8. NEXT PLENARY IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 12.
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